Application No. 10/757714 (Docket: NEXTIO.0300)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 1/18/06
Reply to Office Action of 1/3/06

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
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Please cancel claims 1-45 and 51 without prejudice. Kindly amend claim 46 as shown in the following listing of claims. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-45   (canceled)

46.   (Currently amended) A method for transferring a packet from a shared input/output (I/O) endpoint to one of a plurality of OS Domains, within a load/store fabric of the plurality of OS Domains, comprising:

embedding an OS Domain number with the packet to associate the packet with one of the plurality of OS Domains;

transferring the packet with the embedded OS Domain number to a shared I/O switch;

examining the embedded OS Domain number to determine a port within the shared I/O switch associated with the one of the plurality of OS Domains; and

transferring the packet to the one of the plurality of OS Domains using the port wherein the load/store fabric maps memory space for the shared I/O switch within memory space of the one of the plurality of OS Domains.

47.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein the shared input/output (I/O) endpoint comprises a network interface controller.

48.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein each of the plurality of OS Domains comprise:

a processing complex; and

memory, coupled to the processing complex for storing data utilized by the processing complex.

49.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 48 wherein the processing complex comprises one or more processors.

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50.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein the load/store fabric utilizes PCI Express.

51.   (canceled)

52.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein said step of embedding comprises:

forming an OS Header field; and

including the OS Header field within the packet for transfer to the shared I/O switch.

53.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein said step of examining comprises:

performing a table lookup to associate the OS Domain number with a PCI bus hierarchy for the packet; and

determining a port associated with the PCI bus hierarchy which is coupled to the OS Domain for the PCI bus hierarchy.

54.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 46 wherein the port couples the shared I/O switch to the one of the plurality of OS Domains.